

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

The parish of
St Martin of Tours
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Weekly Newsletter
Registered Charity Number: 1134149

Sunday 10th October 2021 – 19th Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends,

What do I lack? (please don't write in!) This was the question of the wealthy person asking Jesus about eternal life. In his case, it was generosity towards others, and the courage to let go of his material security. Our challenge is to consider the same question – what gets in the way of my living a life of freedom in Christ?

Nick Parish

THIS WEEK

Sunday 10th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am – Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel
- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen's – led by Andris Abakuks
- 10.00am – Choral Matins at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by Graeme Lodge
- 3.00pm – Beacon Tea in Church. All welcome.
- 6.30pm – Holy Communion – (in Church and live streamed) led by Nick Parish

(In light of continued rates of infection in our community, we will continue with communion in one kind during October).

Wednesday 13th October

- 10.00am – Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel– led by Nick Parish

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 17th October – Anti-Slavery Sunday

- 9.30am – Morning Prayer at St Stephen's – led by Howard
- 10.00am – Holy Communion at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – Choral Evensong for St Luke – (in Church and live streamed) led by Graeme Lodge

DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

Morning Prayer and Pastoral Support

Every Tuesday, Morning Prayer is held at 9.00am lasting between 20 and 30 minutes. From 9.30 am I shall be available in the church until 12.00 noon. If anyone wishes to talk to me about their worries or anything on their mind, please feel free to come for a chat which will of course be in total confidence. When I am not available for any reason another member of the Pastoral or Ministry Team will be there in my place.

Mary Gilbert, Pastoral Team

Churches Together in Epsom Monthly prayer meetings:

Following a well-attended and enjoyable social gathering, 'in person', by CTiE reps, at the Old Moat Café, we decided to alternately locate the monthly prayer meetings to 'Zoom online' or 'in person', for a trial period. We were able to pray at the end of our social gathering at the Old Moat Café and received a positive response. The Old Moat Café has a covered outdoor area which should prove a Covid-safe environment. The gatherings will start at 9.15 on zoom and at 10 am for the 'in person' meetings. Dates of our monthly prayer meetings for Autumn 2021 are:

- Friday November 12th: 9.15-9.45am on Zoom
- Friday December 10th: 10-11am at Old Moat Café

Old Moat Garden Centre Café is in Horton Lane, Epsom

[Find Us — The Old Moat Garden Centre & Cafe](#)



News from Churches Together in Epsom

At our recent CTiE meeting, we heard details of Emerge Advocacy, a new charity working at Epsom Hospital, and of the return of Street Pastors.

Emerge Advocacy

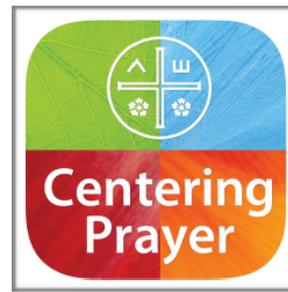
Emerge Advocacy is a Christian charity which provides support to young people aged 10 to 25 arriving at Accident and Emergency at Epsom Hospital because of self-harm, emotional crisis or a suicide attempt. They provide God's presence and a listening ear to those young people at a moment of crisis in their lives. The charity was founded by one woman with a vision and now has a presence in all the major hospitals in Surrey and is moving outwards to Kent and elsewhere. Their team mostly consists of volunteers from local churches who are given full training. At Epsom Hospital volunteers are currently on call from 7 pm to 11 pm, usually Monday to Thursday. Emerge in Epsom needs more volunteers in the hospital and also to give prayer support. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more details, see <https://emergeadvocacy.com/> or get in touch with Bethany via email bethany@emergeadvocacy.com, or call 07534 331 455.

Street Pastors

Please pray for the Street Pastors who have recently started going out again after a gap of 18 months because of the pandemic. They are on the streets of our town from 10 pm to 3 am on a Friday night, talking and listening to anyone who is willing to talk to them. They go out in teams of at least three, are DBS checked and are trusted by the people they meet. They show the love of God and, if asked, will pray with someone and talk about God in a non-confrontational way. They help to calm situations and arrange transport to get people home safely. If you would like to find out more, see <https://streetpastors.org/locations/epsom/> or email: epsom@streetpastors.org.uk

Judith Mitchell and Meg Topley

Centering Prayer Taster Day at St Martin's Saturday November 13



Following on from our Remember: Reflect: Restore time in June, and as part of St Martin's community outreach, we are organising a Centering Prayer Taster Day on Saturday, November 13 from 10.30am to 4.15pm.

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer where we consent to God's presence and action within. It is a movement away from more active modes of prayer into a receptive prayer of resting in God. It is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

This is rooted in the work of Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO, one of the principal founders and teachers of Centering Prayer. Fr Thomas began this work in 1983 and it is now practised worldwide.

Taught by trained and commissioned presenters, including one of our own congregation, Dr Lynne Scholefield, the Taster Day will familiarise participants with the method of Centering Prayer and its roots in the Christian tradition, whilst offering two opportunities to experience the prayer.

Following the Taster Day, participants will be invited to attend six weekly, continuing, sessions, at St Martin's, which provide more background and the time to establish a personal Centering Prayer practice.

The Taster Day is open to people from other churches in the area and we hope that lots of people from our church will come and make our visitors welcome, as well as learning about Centering Prayer for themselves.

The cost for the day is £5.50 which includes coffee/tea and takeaway literature. For more information on Centering Prayer, please speak with Lynne Scholefield. To book your place at the Taster Day please contact Judith Mitchell at stmcenteringprayer@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Giving to St Martin's and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online giving via the Charities Aid Foundation. Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit. To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below

There is also a "Donate" button on our website.



Cheques to St Martin's

If give a cheque donation to St Martin's Church, please can it payable to:
'The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom'

Donation Station

If you wish to give via contactless payment, please us the donation station in Church. You can give a pre-set amount or choose one. You can also gift aid your donation.

OTHER NOTICES

Congregation Emergency Contact

We are increasingly visiting people at home who are unwell, or frail. We would like to have a record, if people are willing, of an emergency contact, so that should there be an issue we know who to contact. If you are willing, please let the office know a telephone number/ email. Thank you.

Nick Parish

Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial – Sunday 7th November at 6.30pm:

The annual Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial remembering those who have died will be at **6.30pm on Sunday 7th November.**



1. There will be a list out at the back of St Martin's Church throughout October for any member of the congregation to add any name that they wish to be remembered aloud at the service. There is also a list of the names read out at last years' service, please tick if you would like the name read out again this year. Please do not assume that any name will be carried over from a previous year.
2. Those who have had funerals associated with St Martin's over the past three years will be invited to the Service.
3. Anyone can add names at the back of the church on the day where one of the team will be ready and available from 6pm to complete the list. This will be taken to the dais during the opening hymn.

Joan Leist

Joan is 100 years young on October 11th. She is a member of the Mother's Union and regularly came to the Holy Communion service on a Wednesdays. We wish Joan a happy 100th birthday.

The Memorial Garden

This much appreciated space is beginning to get a little cluttered with memorial items. We understand people wish to put these items near the place where their loved one's ashes have been interred, but after an appropriate period of time, if they are not removed, we will place them at the foot of the Church wall. Thank you. **Nick Parish**

Beacon Teas

The Beacon Teas have resumed and are held in St Martin's Church on the second Sunday in each month between 3.00pm. and 5.00pm. The next one will take place **Today**. We look forward to seeing anyone who would like some companionship, sandwiches and cake. You can decide which of these is the most important! If anyone is willing to donate the occasional home-made cake we would be most grateful.

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook, Pastoral Team

Sunday Coffee

Coffee and tea are served every Sunday morning after the 10.00am service. At the moment we have 14 volunteers which means we do it every 7 weeks. We have in the last 2 years lost 4 or 5 members due to ill health or moving away. It would be lovely if we could recruit some more volunteers (any age or sex), if you would be willing, please contact me. 01372 723675, maureensuatt@virginmedia.com

Maureen Suatt

MISSION FOR THE MONTH

HOME MISSION

The Sunnybank Trust - supports people with learning disabilities and autism to say what they want and live the life they choose, through their range of services. Voices, Choices, Futures - providing advocacy and social opportunities and transitional support to young adults and their families leaving full time education.

Spinnaker Trust – Engaging, Inspiring, Equipping

The aim of this Christian charity is to support primary schools with assemblies and R.E. lessons. Locally they have worked at 11 schools in Epsom and Ewell.

They aim to inspire this generation of primary school children to engage with the Christian faith and explore its values.

ABROAD MISSION

St Martin's supports by annual donations many International Charities and Agencies, covering a wide range of needs, both practical and spiritual.

These include:

USPG(church in south India)

Barnabas Fund (suffering Christians in Syria)

AMECA (Malawi)

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Wheels for the World

Mercy Ships

The Leprosy Mission

Also including them in our Harvest and Christmas donations and collections.

Please hold them in your Prayers.

Jill Chapman - Mission

EVENTS AND MUSIC



**** **SAVE THE DATE** ****

St Martin's Christmas Fair will be held on **Saturday 27th November 2021** between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm. Please put this date in your diaries so that you can come and support us. The Christmas Fair is always very successful with lots of goodies to buy, food to eat and friends to meet. Watch out for more information in due course.

Thank you

Events Team

St Martin's Music Recitals – Next one 23rd October

Join us for a special programme of music by female composers:

Metamorphosis for 2 oboes and piano - Jenni Brandon

Sonatina for flute and piano - Eldin Burton

There are things to be said, fl, ob, pno - Ingrid Stolzel

Little Duos (ob, ca) - Rhian Samuel

Vers la Vie Nouvelle - Nadia Boulanger (pno)

Trio for fl, ob, piano - Madeleine Dring

Admission to our concerts is FREE, however we rely on our audiences donating a minimum of £10 to help cover the costs of the event.

The Tailleferre Ensemble is a UK-based chamber collective, founded in 2019 by Nicola Hands and Penelope Smith with the aim of promoting women in music. The group is a flexible chamber ensemble, offering varied recitals of differing instrumentation and genre, including established, lesser-known and contemporary works. Their members are female artists of exceptional calibre, with impressive individual biographies. As a group, they have been praised for their fine performances and “extensive palette of timbres”.

They have a special interest in redressing the balance of works performed by male and female composers, and in promoting new works. In October 2019 they premiered work by Welsh composer Rhian Samuel, who attended the concert and was delighted with the performance, and who has since dedicated new work to the ensemble.

Payment for the admission for attending a recital as part of Music @ St Martin's can be made by either :

1. Using the Donation Station in Church and select “Giving at a Recital at St Martin's”
2. Put the following link into your web browser:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14629>

OR

3. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code



Latest message from Food Bank

Wishlist: This week we need help with:

Urgent:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meat pies• Tinned Fruit• Powdered Milk• Squash• Shaving foam• Noodles (dried egg/rise noodles or straight to wok) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coffee• Sugar (500grs ideally)• Bags for Life - we urgently need these• Shower Gel• Female & Male Deodorant• Kids Toothbrushes |
|--|---|

Please, no more donations of the following items at this time:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pasta,• baked beans,• porridge,• baby shampoo, | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• tampons & sanitary towels,• marmalade,• cat/dog food,• adult toothbrushes |
|---|--|

You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, (Behind West Ewell Primary School), Ruxley Lane, Ewell, KT19 0JG

Donation Drop Off Times: Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm

To give:

You can help by texting 70450 to donate:

Text **FOODBANKGIFT5** to donate £5

Text **FOODBANKGIFT15** to donate £15

Text **FOODBANKGIFT10** to donate £10

Text **FOODBANKGIFT20** to donate £20



CONTACT US

Parish Office:

**Church House, Church Street, Epsom,
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567**

E-mail: smartinsepsom@btconnect.com

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

**Opening hours are Mondays, Wednesday, Thursdays & Fridays
9.30am to 12.30pm**

The Revd Nick Parish – Vicar – 01372 743336

Email: vicar@stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd Canon Adrian Esdaile - Priest in Retirement - 01372 723770

Email: esdaileadrian@yahoo.co.uk

**(available for Contemplative Prayer, Counsel,
Spiritual Direction and the Healing Ministry)**

COLLECT

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Amos 5:6-7. 10-15

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins – you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

PSALM Psalm 90:13-17

R *We shall rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.*

or

R *O Lord, be gracious to your servants.*

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
be gracious to your servants.
Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. **R**

Make us glad by the measure of the days
that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.
Show your servants your works
and your splendour to their children. **R**

May the graciousness of the Lord
our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:12-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

GOSPEL Mark 10:17-31

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'" He said to Jesus, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus,

looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields – but with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

POST COMMUNION

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday Homily

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10 OCTOBER 2021

YEAR B

“As he was setting out on a journey...”

Mark 10:17

Illustration

Why is it that, however big the suitcase, there is never enough room for that last pair of shoes? Perhaps there is a scientific principle that the volume of holiday clothes expands to fill the capacity of the available suitcase – and then some! Most of us take far more luggage on holiday than we really need. At any airport, we see fellow tourists with their bulging suitcases, most of them with wheels these days for easy transfer from taxi to aeroplane to taxi. But we also see the backpackers, mainly young people, eager to do some serious travelling, to see the real world and not just the tourist hotels. When it comes to packing, the backpacker’s principle is a simple one: I shall have to carry this on my journey, so do I really need it?

Gospel Teaching

Two people were setting out on a journey in today’s Gospel reading: Jesus and the rich man. Jesus knew where he was going; the rich man was unaware that he was even setting out. Jesus the backpacker was travelling light, on his journey towards the cross. The rich man was setting out on a spiritual journey, a pilgrimage of discovery, as he turned away from Jesus, grieving, carrying his bulging suitcase of material possessions.

The rich man was not a bad man. He had obeyed all the commandments, and we are specifically told that Jesus, an excellent judge of character, looked at him and loved him! To the man’s question about how to inherit eternal life, Jesus replies with an amazing invitation: “Follow me.” But first he must sell his possessions and give to the poor. All that stood between the rich man and a life of discipleship, all that stood between him and eternal life, was the wealth that was weighing him down. With that bulging suitcase, he would not be able to keep up with Jesus and his backpacking disciples.

Wealth itself is not evil. But it can get in the way. It is not something we need on our journey. Wealth, or the pursuit of it, can provide a focus for our lives, which should instead focus on the needs of others and a relationship with God, in the pilgrimage towards eternal life. We do not know where the rich man’s spiritual journey took him, but perhaps those words from Jesus pierced his soul. Perhaps he emptied his suitcase on the way, handing out his possessions to those he

passed who had little of their own. Perhaps he followed the advice Jesus gave, and then returned to follow Jesus himself. God may have helped him through the eye of the needle.

But in the meantime, those who were already following Jesus were wondering about the things which they had given up. Peter reminds Jesus that the travelling band of disciples had left homes, families and occupations to follow him. Jesus reassures him that the rewards will far outweigh the sacrifice, but also warns that the journey will be a difficult one: there will be persecutions along the way.

Application

Those of us who are not wealthy may feel smug on reading this Gospel story. Perhaps we congratulate ourselves that it is easier for us to inherit eternal life because we are not weighed down by material possessions. But what is there in our own lives that is surplus to requirements? What can we leave out of our backpack, once we decide to abandon the suitcase and undertake some serious travelling? Following Jesus along the path to eternal life entails sacrifice on our part, the giving up of anything which prevents us from seeing the needs of others or gets in the way of a living, loving relationship with God. Ambition, pride, laziness and self-satisfaction are among the items we can remove from our packing list.

It is all too easy to feel smug as a Christian. After all, every Eucharist reminds us that Jesus has already made the ultimate sacrifice, dying for our sins on the cross. His death and resurrection have earned for us the eternal life which that rich man sought to inherit. Jesus has passed through the heavens and opened the way for us into the Father's presence. But if we seek to follow him there, let us not risk being turned away from the flight because our baggage is too heavy.

MONDAY

11 OCTOBER

Romans 1:1-7

Psalm 98

Luke 11:29-32

TUESDAY

12 OCTOBER

Romans 1:16-25

Psalm 19:1-4

Luke 11:37-41

WEDNESDAY

13 OCTOBER

Romans 2:1-11

Psalm 62:1-8

Luke 11:42-46

THURSDAY

14 OCTOBER

Romans 3:21-30

Psalm 130

Luke 11:47-end

FRIDAY

15 OCTOBER

Romans 4:1-8

Psalm 32

Luke 12:1-7

SATURDAY

16 OCTOBER

Romans 4:13. 16-18

Psalm 105:6-10.

41-44

Luke 12:8-12

REFLECTION

We begin this week with signs. Looking back to the story of Jonah, which we heard last week, Jesus tells his listeners that the sign of Jonah is the only one they will be given.

The Son of Man, like Jonah, will be a sign for this generation. On Tuesday, Jesus uses the Pharisees' horror that he did not wash before dinner to create another kind of sign or metaphor. "You... clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness," he says.

The week continues with criticism of the Pharisees and lawyers who follow the letter of the law but neglect others who are bearing heavy burdens that they cannot carry. On Thursday we hear that these elite people have not been willing to listen to God's messengers, the prophets, but have killed them and built their tombs. But in the end, everything will become known, and those who acknowledge the Son of Man will also be acknowledged.

If we have authority or power over others it is easy to miss the effect that our expectations have on them. At times we all need a sign to show us the true consequences of our behaviour.



PRAYER

Help us, Lord,
to recognise and pay attention to the signs you send.
Make us people who orientate themselves
towards the needs of those around us.

PART III – EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LIVE
the WORDSUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Richard Greatrex continues his series about prayer.

The Eucharistic Prayer, the longest and most complex prayer in the Holy Communion service, is also the most significant, which is why many denominations sanction the use of authorised versions only. An integral part of the liturgy since the early Church, it is comprised of several constituent elements, each with their own technical title. Composition varies among churches: Eastern and Western, Catholic and Protestant – each speaks to and from its own theological orientation, affecting whether all the available elements are included and the order in which they occur.

The Book of Common Prayer provides only one authorised Eucharistic Prayer, along with a small amount of seasonal variation in the early section known as the Preface, but when *Common Worship*, Order One, was produced, it included eight prayers and a much broader selection of prefaces. More recently, two further Eucharistic Prayers were added, constructed to suit all-age worship. Although some of these ten prayers are new, several have ancient antecedents, from across East and West, including the longest one, Prayer F, which originates from the fourth-century Liturgy of St Basil. Together they offer options for every congregation, season or festival.

Each Eucharistic Prayer is a long prayer of consecration with, at its heart, the institution narrative, derived from the descriptions in the Gospels and 1 Corinthians 11, of Jesus' words and actions over bread and wine at the Last Supper. It both remembers this event and re-presents it, bringing a moment of history into the immediate present, reconstructing time itself so that all generations throughout the ages share together Christ's salvific offering of himself. This makes it a corporate act, even though most of the text is spoken by the presiding minister. While the priest prays it aloud on behalf of the congregation, who briefly respond at strategic points, those present should also be silently praying it together before responding robustly with the final great "Amen", transforming this subtle, complex prayer into a sustained outpouring of praise from all God's people.

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Nineteenth week
after Trinity

Monday 11 October
to Saturday
16 October 2021

WEEK

The ancient prayer of the psalms



Ricarda Witcombe *reflects on* Psalm 22:1-15

As Jesus was dying, he cried, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” He had always known these words: they had formed part of his praying all through his life. The psalms were his prayer book, just as they are for many of us. He cried them also because they described his experience: in the place of deepest agony, even Jesus found God to be absent. The psalm continues in complaint, “Oh my God... you do not answer!”

There is a curious comfort for us here. Our human experience, of God disappearing when we most need God, finds its place in this ancient prayer. In fact, if we continue to the end of the psalm, we find praise as well as pain, a rugged expression of faith.

There is a searing honesty in all of it: we do not need to pretend all is well when it is not. The psalm gives us a language to come to God just as we are. We know that Jesus himself has inhabited this experience of God’s absence. He has shown us what to do: we cry out to God nonetheless. And in this place of absence, we are met by none other than God. 🙏

Loving God, when we feel abandoned and alone, keep us calling out to you. And though the darkness be very dark, may we still find you there. Amen.

Holy Places

St Laurence’s Church

by Heather Smith

If you came to Bradford-on-Avon in the nineteenth century, you would have had no idea that this tiny place existed. Surrounded by sheds for storing woollen cloth, a coach house and stables, and the house of a rich clothier, its presence went completely unnoticed by townsfolk and visitors alike. Although it was known that a monastery had once existed, there

seemed no trace, until repairs to a chimney uncovered two stone angels embedded in what turned out to be the church’s east wall.

It is thought that the Normans abandoned the church in favour of the newer All Saints Church. But there is no fear of missing it now, standing on rising ground, carefully preserved, open for reflection and prayer. Its altar has been restored and above it are fragments of a stone cross.

St Laurence’s is known for its atmosphere, the lingering presence, perhaps of the Bradford monks. The prayers of those who frequented it long ago seem still to live in the stones, connecting us with those who are long gone, but part of the great Christian communion. 🙏

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

The two Large Black pigs, Lefty and Dexter, are big now and almost ready for slaughter. They are a rare breed like lots of our livestock – breeds that were treasured in the past for the different characteristics or because they were native to the

area, which you can often see in the name – the Berkshire or the Tamworth. Our boys particularly like apples, of course, but the organic fruit shop up the road sometimes has waste tomatoes, peaches, watermelons and other luxuries which get eaten with great delight.

So where is God in this process of living and dying? My covenant with all our animals is to be there when they’re killed, to speak softly and act kindly. Slaughter is not an easy, careless act. If I become hardened to it then I have lost my way and lost sight of the *Bugail Da*, the Good Shepherd. 🙏

“ To find love I must enter into the sanctuary where it is hidden, which is the mystery of God.”

Thomas Merton (1915-1968), American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet and social activist



Sunday 10 October 2021
 Mark 10:17-30
 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

A rich young man asks Jesus how he can get to heaven. Jesus challenges the man to share what he has with other people. It's not always easy to share – but God will help us.

My name is _____

SHARE WITH OTHERS

Colour

Here is the rich young man. He is very sad.

He doesn't think he can share all his money.



Who needs what?

These people all need something.

Can you draw a line from each person to the thing they need?



Clothes



Cuddles



Food

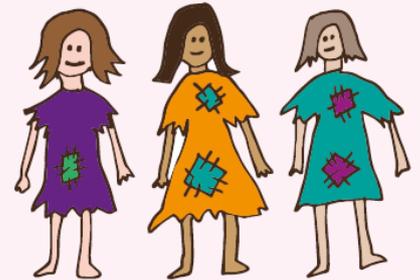
Enter God's Kingdom

Jesus wants us all to enter God's kingdom but it might not be that easy. Can you follow the right path to get there?



Share your wealth

The rich man was a very good man, but he loved his money very much.



Help the rich man give away his money so that each poor person has the same amount.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you for loving me, Jesus, just like you loved the rich young man. Help me to rise to your challenge and share what I have with others. Amen.

Answers: Each person can have four coins